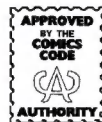


**Archie**  
ADVENTURE  
SERIES



**SEGA**

# SONIC



## THE HEDGEHOG

NACK  
IS BACK TO  
INTERRUPT  
SONIC'S  
LOVE  
TRIANGLE  
TROUBLE  
IN THREE,  
TWO—

### "Heart Held Hostage:

PART ONE™



**PLUS:**

WHAT DOES  
AN ECHIDNA  
DO WITH HIMSELF  
"AFTERLIFE" IS  
OVER? FIND  
OUT IN OUR  
LATEST  
KNUCKLES'  
CHAPTER



HOW DO A  
CYBERNETIC ECHIDNA  
AND A HIP-HOP  
CROC PUT PAST  
DIFFERENCES  
BEHIND THEM—  
**JULIE-SU** AND  
**VECTOR** HAVE  
THE ANSWER



SPAZ  
KITBEIRO





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KARL BOLLERS & J. AXER  
PRESENT

# SONIC

THE HEDGEHOG

IN

## "Heart Held Hostage"

part  
one

CONOR TOMAS  
INKER

JASON JENSEN  
COLORIST

JEFF POWELL  
LETTERER

J.F. GABRIE  
EDITOR

VICTOR SCIRELICK  
MANAGING EDITOR

RICHARD GOLDWATER  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

SPRINGTIME IN  
KNOTHOLE...

WRONG  
NOTE, SON.

SORRY,  
DAD!

GEE, MISTER  
HEDGEHOG, IF YOU  
KNOW SO MUCH  
ABOUT MUSICAL  
INSTRUMENTS...

...WHY  
DON'T YOU  
PLAY 'EM  
ANYMORE?

THESE ROBOTICIZED  
FINGERS AREN'T NEARLY NIMBLE  
ENOUGH TO PLUCK THOSE GUITAR  
STRINGS, TAILS...

...BUT I CAN  
STILL TEACH MY  
BOY HOW!







AND, AS THE BLUE BLUR  
CONTINUES TO PLAY VARIOUS  
CHORDS...

...MANY  
GATHER...

...AND A CROWD SOON  
FORMS AROUND THE  
HEDGEHOG FAMILY HUT.

AMONG  
WHICH ARE...



...SOME VERY  
FAMILIAR FACES.

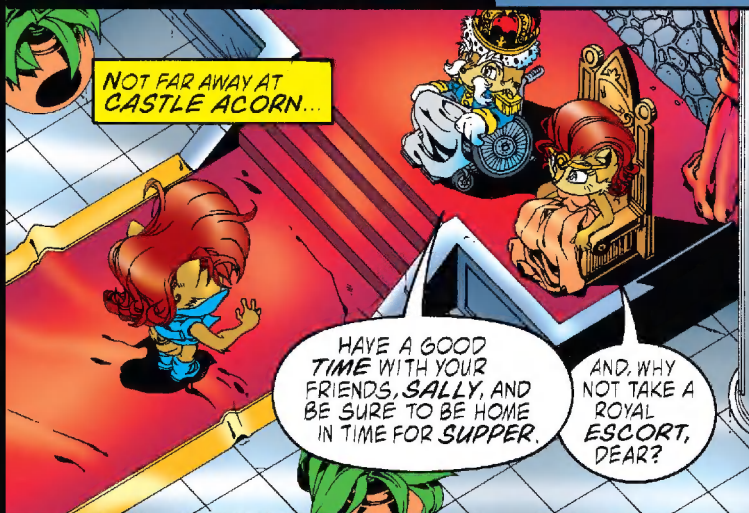
HE'S A  
NATURAL BORN  
TALENT!

SO SUAVE...  
SO SKILLED...  
SO...

...SO  
SONIC!

WELL,  
MINA GIRL,  
HERE GOES  
NOTHING!

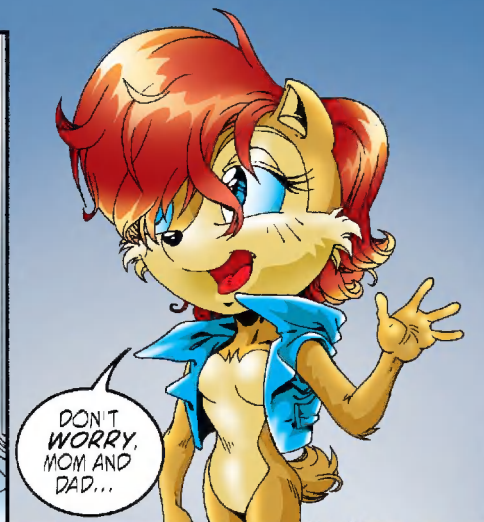




NOT FAR AWAY AT CASTLE ACORN...

HAVE A GOOD TIME WITH YOUR FRIENDS, SALLY, AND BE SURE TO BE HOME IN TIME FOR SUPPER.

AND, WHY NOT TAKE A ROYAL ESCORT, DEAR?



DON'T WORRY, MOM AND DAD...



...I WON'T BE NEEDING ONE.

WHAT? IS IT MY COLOGNE?



SOON...

THAT GUITAR RIFF, SO RAW... SO PASSIONATE ...SO SONIC!



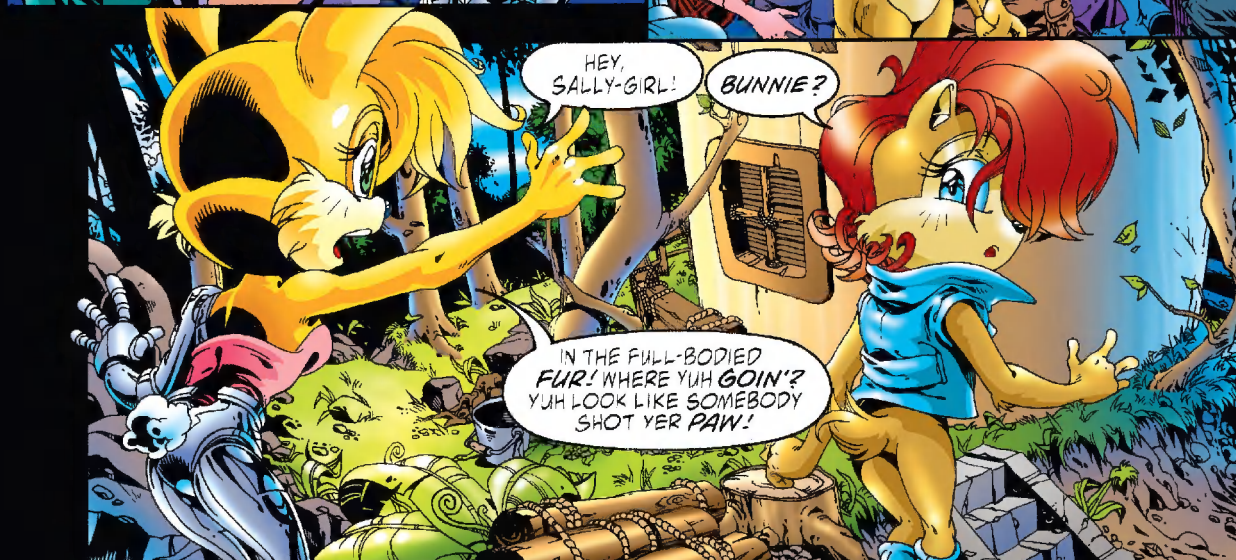
AND THAT VOICE...

...IT'S BEAUTIFUL.



LIKE AN ANGEL... IT'S...









SERIOUSLY, GIRLFRIEND, IT'S ME! AH RECKON SUMTHIN'S BOTHERIN' YUH.

IT'S NOTHING. IT'S SILLY, ACTUALLY.



SO WHY DON'T YUH TRY ME ANYWAYS?

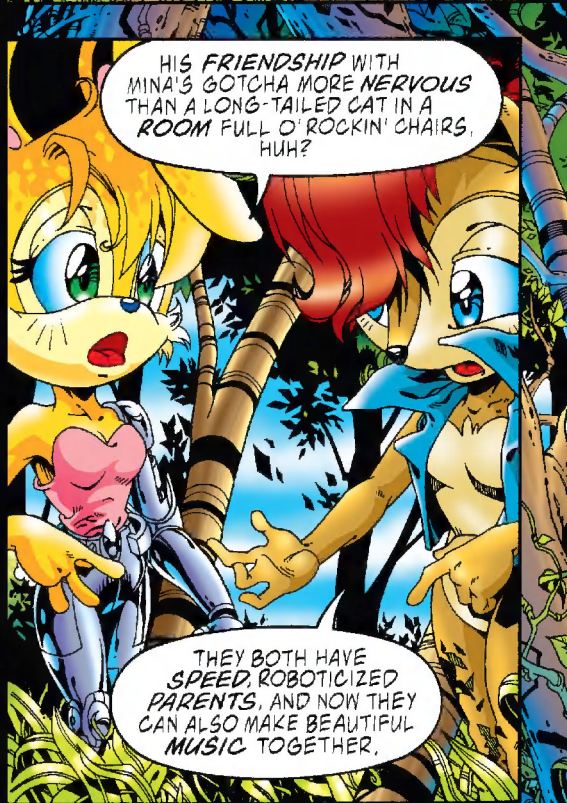
IT'S...IT'S JUST THAT...



...WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, I ALWAYS ASSUMED THAT SONIC AND I WERE SOUL MATES...

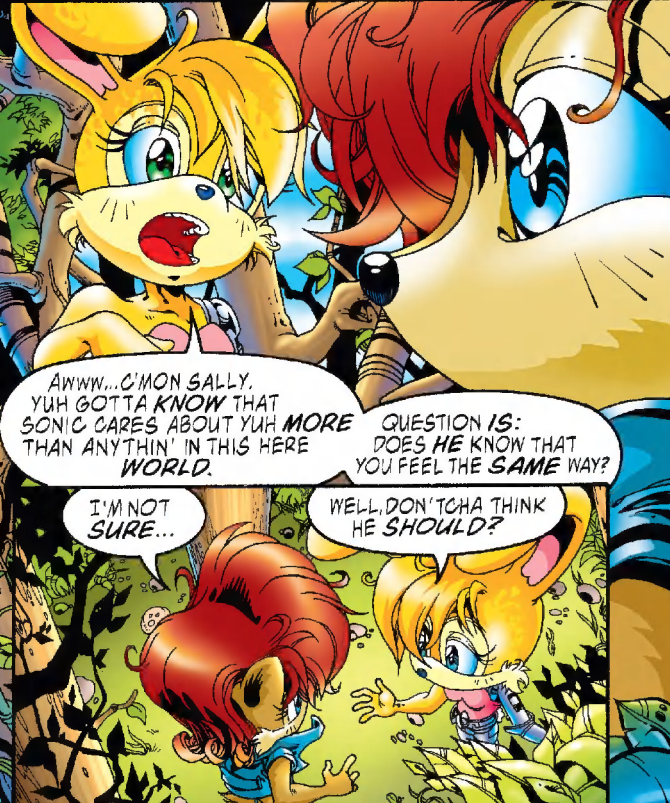
...THAT SOMEDAY WE'D EVENTUALLY BE TOGETHER, Y'KNOW?

WELL, LATELY I'M NOT SO SURE.



HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH MINA'S GOTTA MORE NERVOUS THAN A LONG-TAILED CAT IN A ROOM FULL O' ROCKIN' CHAIRS, HUH?

THEY BOTH HAVE SPEED, ROBOTICIZED PARENTS, AND NOW THEY CAN ALSO MAKE BEAUTIFUL MUSIC TOGETHER.



AWWWW...O'MON SALLY, YUH GOTTA KNOW THAT SONIC CARES ABOUT YUH MORE THAN ANYTHIN' IN THIS HERE WORLD.

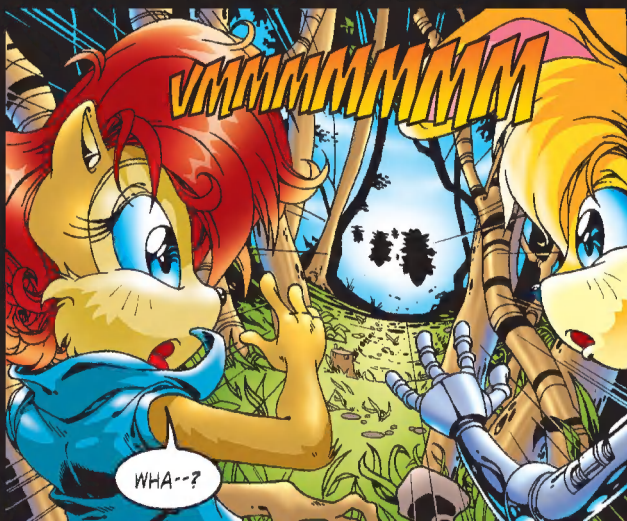
QUESTION IS: DOES HE KNOW THAT YOU FEEL THE SAME WAY?

I'M NOT SURE...

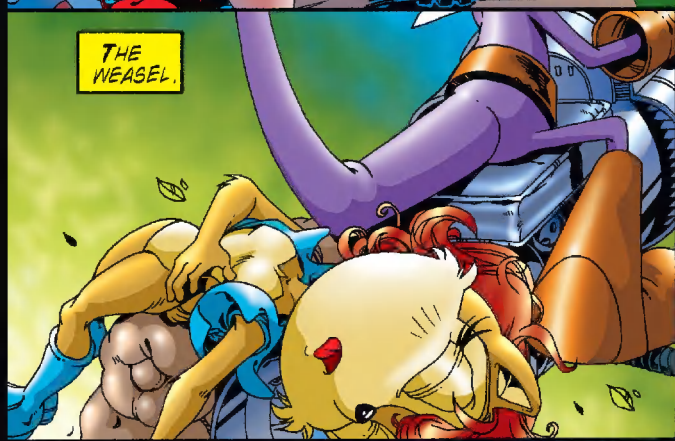
WELL, DON'TCHA THINK HE SHOULD?



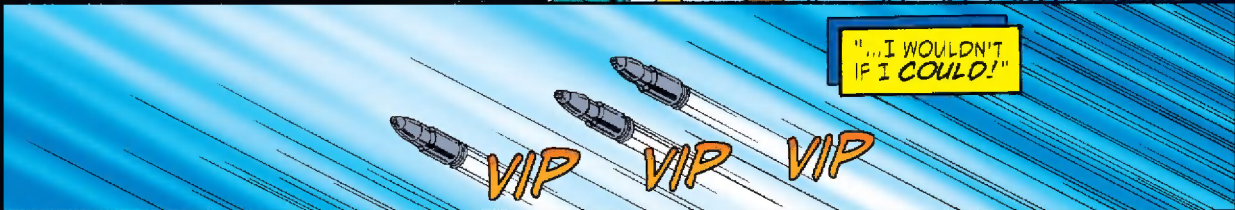
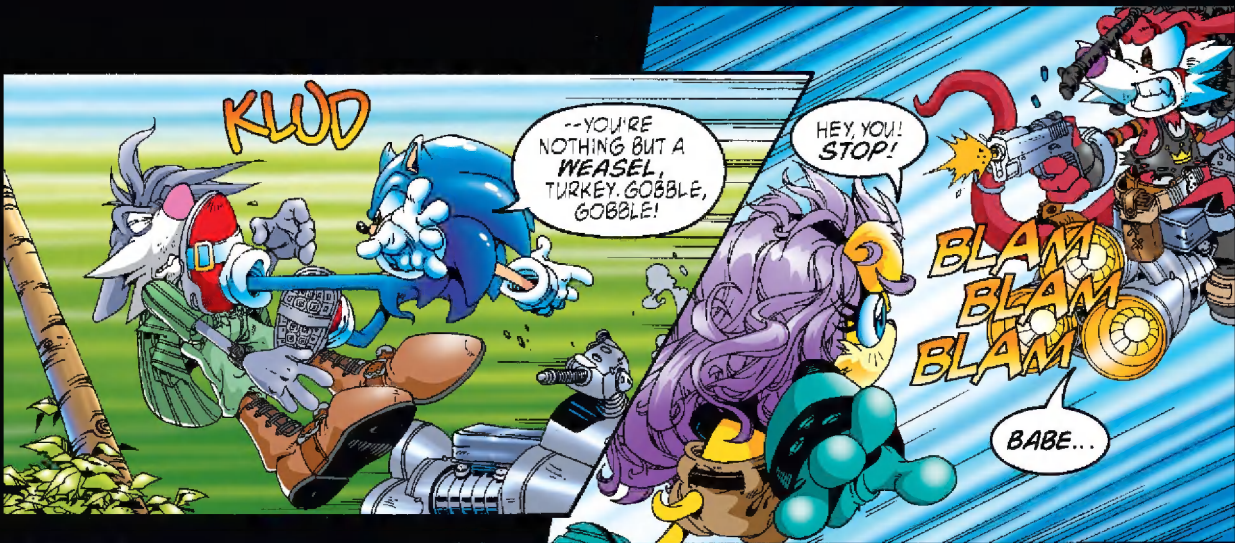




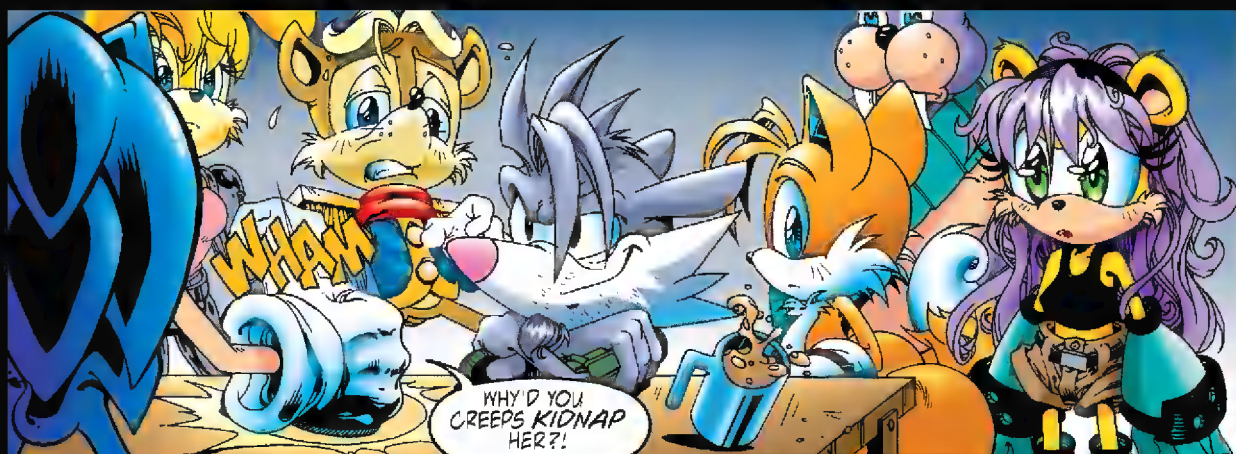












WHY'D YOU CREEPS KIDNAP HER?!

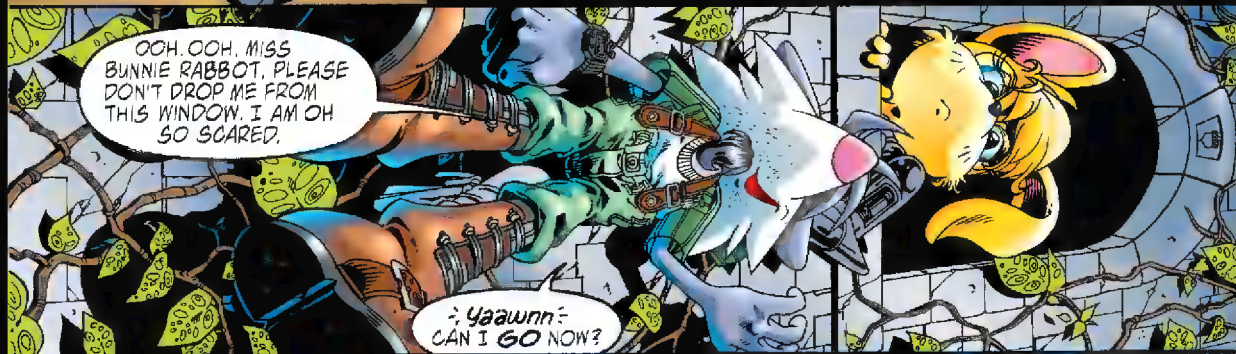


WHY ELSE? SHE'S A PRINCESS, DOPE.  
HER MOMMY AND DADDY'LL PAY US REAL GOOD IF SHE COMES HOME SAFE.



REAL WELL.  
HUH?

YUH MEANT TO SAY "REAL WELL."



OOH. OOH. MISS BUNNIE RABBOT, PLEASE DON'T DROP ME FROM THIS WINDOW. I AM OH SO SCARED.

Yaaawwnn-  
CAN I GO NOW?



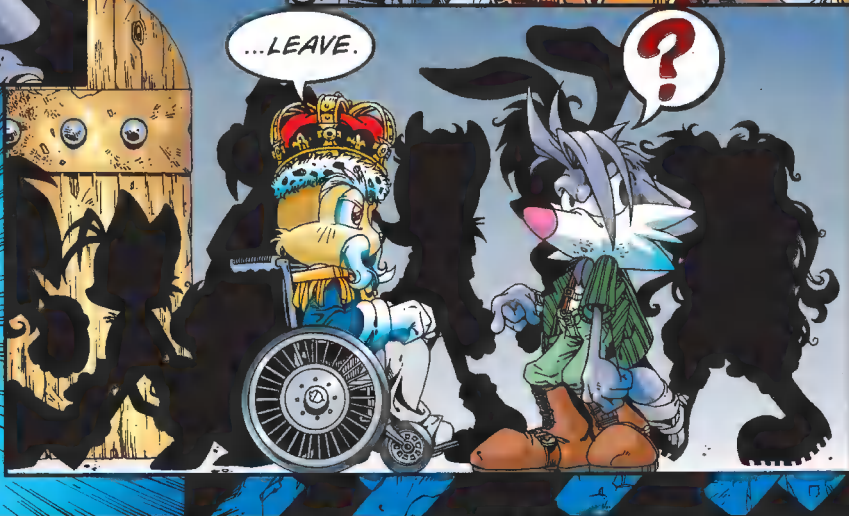
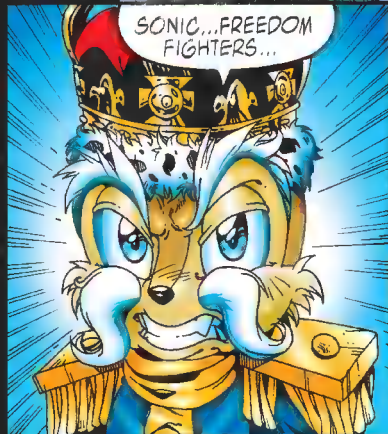
YUH LUCKY AH'M A SOUTHERN BELLE AT HEART, YUH JERK!

WHUD



SQUEAK  
SQUEAK  
SQUEAK







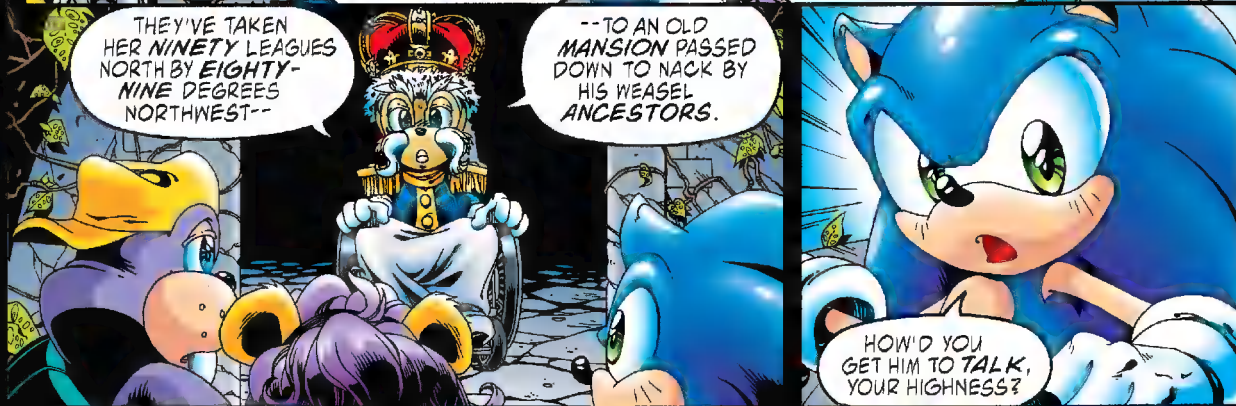


WHY'D KING MAX  
MAKE US LEAVE?

MAYBE HE HAD  
A GOOD REASON...

THEY'VE TAKEN  
HER NINETY LEAGUES  
NORTH BY EIGHTY-  
NINE DEGREES  
NORTHWEST--

--TO AN OLD  
MANSION PASSED  
DOWN TO NACK BY  
HIS WEASEL  
ANCESTORS.



HOW'D YOU  
GET HIM TO TALK,  
YOUR HIGHNESS?

LET'S SAY I  
MADE HIM AN OFFER  
HE COULDN'T  
REFUSE.

OH, MAX...

WHEN I GET  
MY HANDS ON THESE  
THIEVES--



--I'LL  
--I'LL--  
--SONIC! I  
NEED YOU TO--

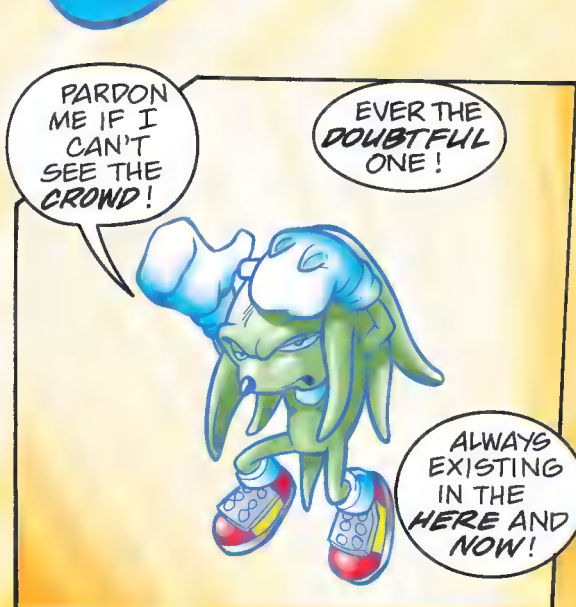
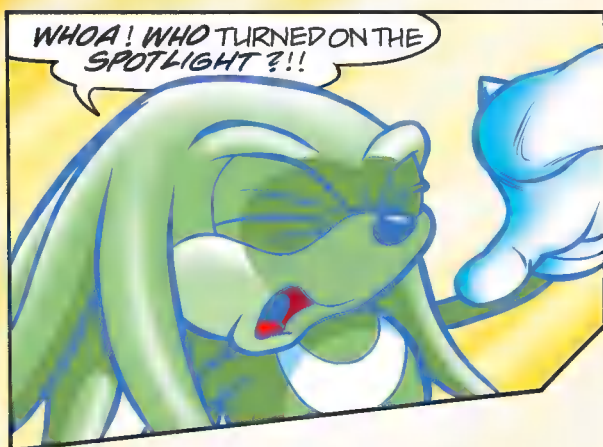


SONIC!

SONIC?

TO BE  
CONTINUED!









I KNOW **EVERYTHING** ABOUT YOU, KNUCKLES!

**RIIIIGHT!**  
LET ME **GUESS**--YOU'RE ANOTHER **RELATIVE** NO ONE EVER TOLD ME ABOUT!



IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING!

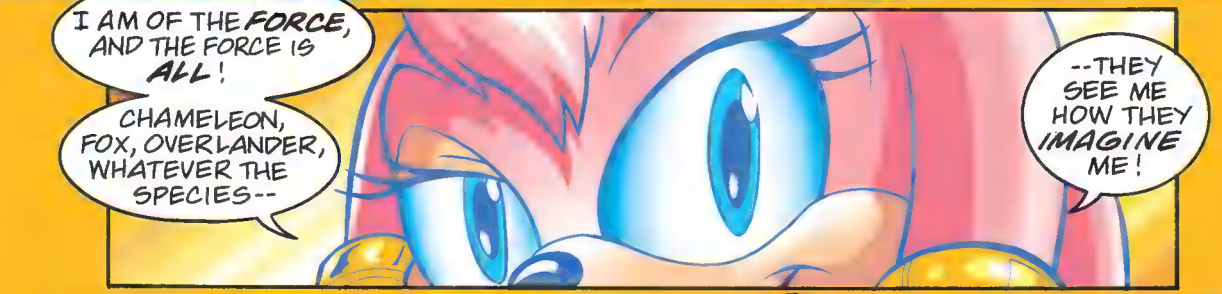
I AM **AURORA!**

BUT YOU'RE-- YOU'RE--

--AN **ECHIDNA?**



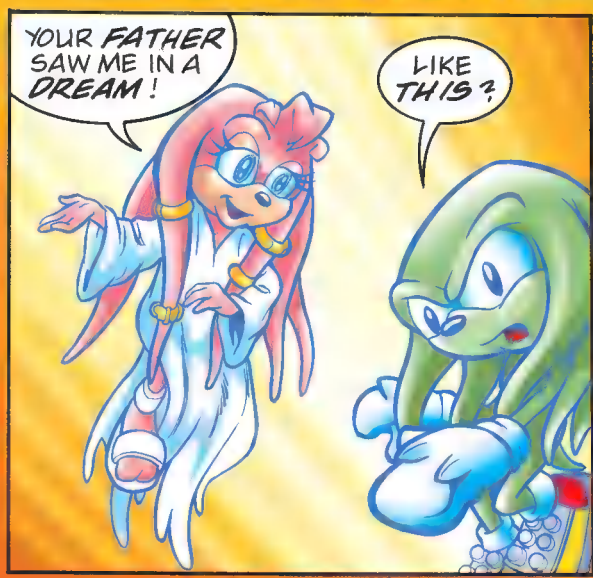
THIS IS WHAT YOU **COMPREHEND** SO THIS IS WHAT YOU **PERCEIVE!**



I AM OF THE **FORCE**, AND THE **FORCE** IS **ALL!**

CHAMELEON, FOX, OVERLANDER, WHATEVER THE SPECIES--

--THEY SEE ME HOW THEY **IMAGINE** ME!



YOUR **FATHER** SAW ME IN A **DREAM!**

LIKE **THIS?**

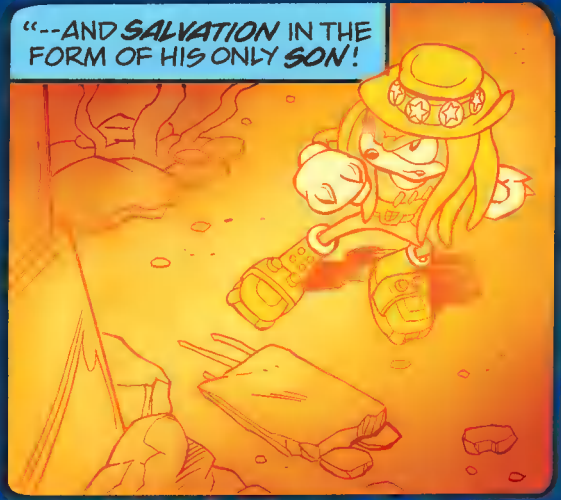


"ONE NIGHT WHEN YOUR FATHER WAS DEEP INTO HIS SLUMBER, I CAME TO HIM AS A VISION OF **ARMAGEDDON**--

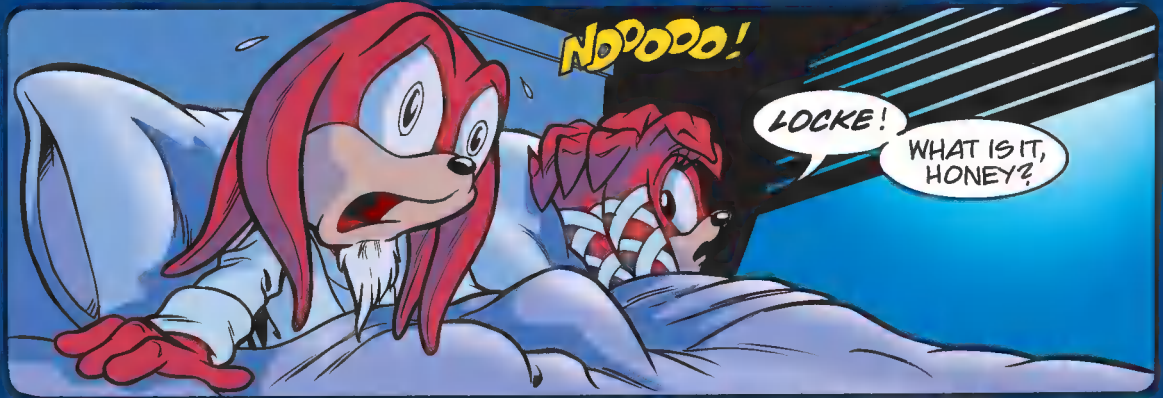




"--WHERE HE SAW A  
**MONSTER BENT ON  
DESTRUCTION--**



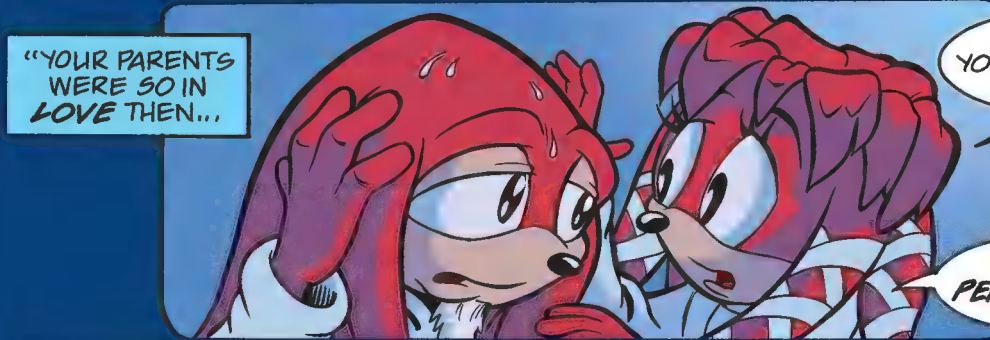
"--AND **SALVATION** IN THE  
FORM OF HIS ONLY SON!



**NOOOO!**

**LOCKE!**

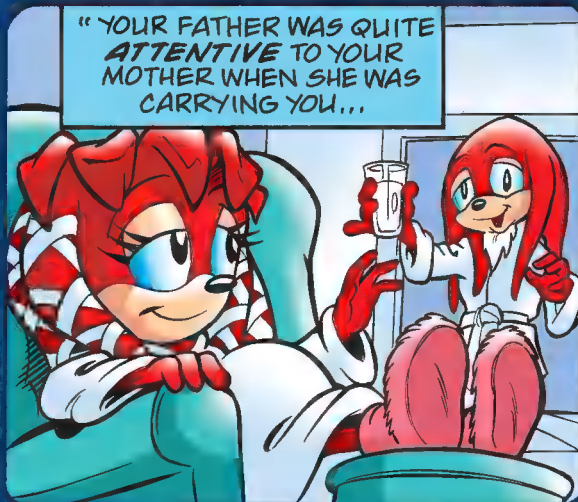
WHAT IS IT,  
HONEY?



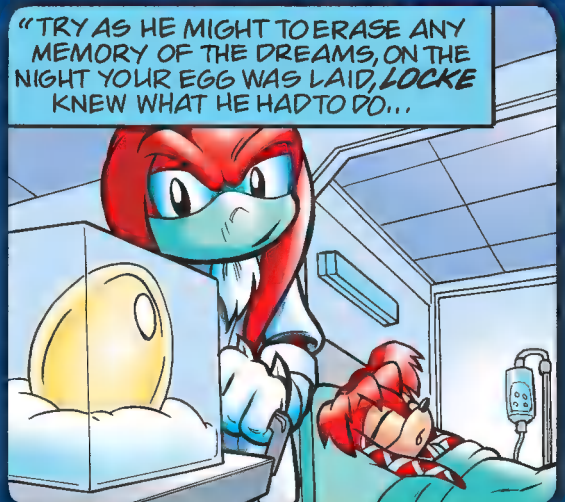
"YOUR PARENTS  
WERE SO IN  
**LOVE THEN...**

ARE  
YOU ALL RIGHT,  
LOCKE?

YOU'RE  
**PERSPIRING!**



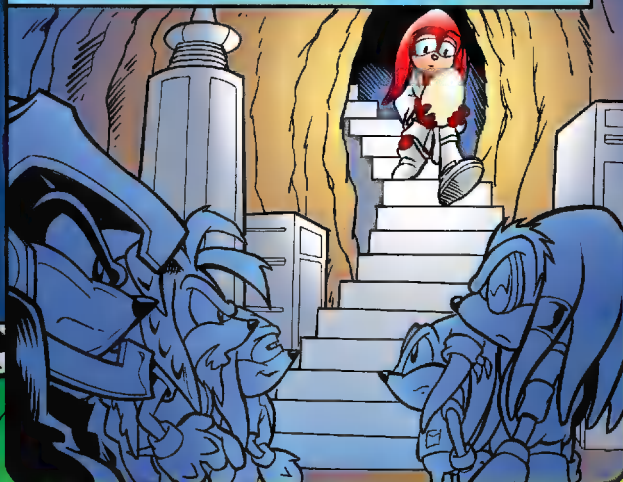
"YOUR FATHER WAS QUITE  
**ATTENTIVE** TO YOUR  
MOTHER WHEN SHE WAS  
CARRYING YOU..."



"TRY AS HE MIGHT TO ERASE ANY  
MEMORY OF THE DREAMS, ON THE  
NIGHT YOUR EGG WAS LAID, **LOCKE**  
KNEW WHAT HE HAD TO DO..."



"IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT, HE TRAVELED TO THE **CHAOS CHAMBER** WHERE THE **BROTHERHOOD** AWAITED THE BOTH OF YOU...

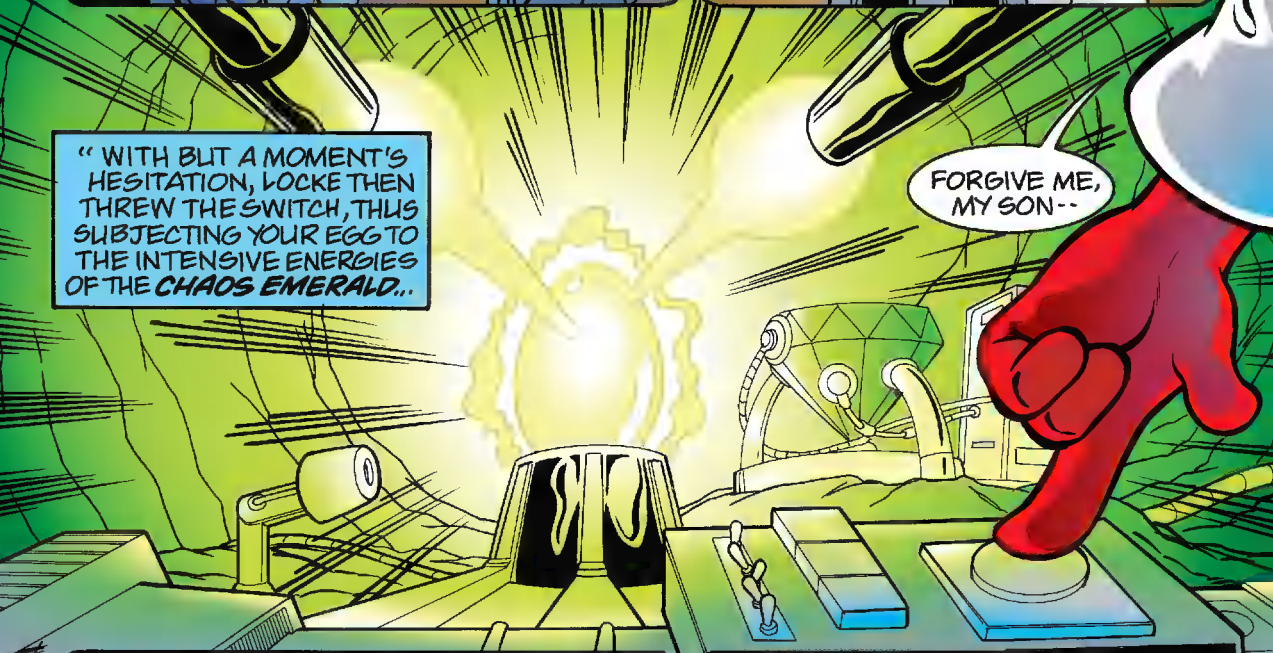


IF ONLY WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DO HAD WORKED ON ME, MY SON--

--BUT I'M AFRAID I HAVE NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE!

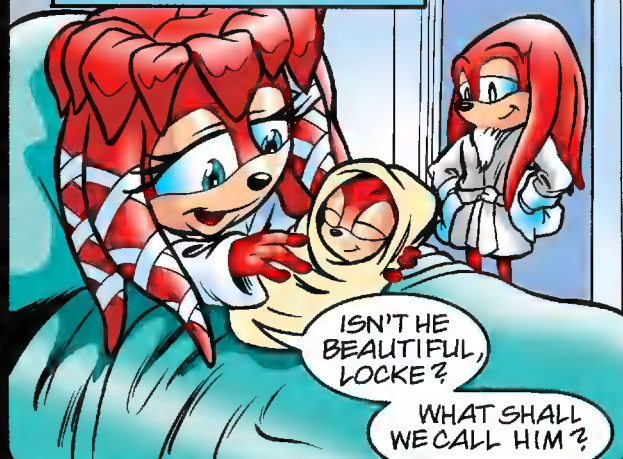


"WITH BUT A MOMENT'S HESITATION, LOCKE THEN THREW THE SWITCH, THUS SUBJECTING YOUR EGG TO THE INTENSIVE ENERGIES OF THE **CHAOS EMERALD**...



FORGIVE ME, MY SON--

"LESS THAN A DAY LATER, YOU WERE HATCHED, YOUR MOTHER **UNWARE** OF YOUR TRUE **NATURE**...



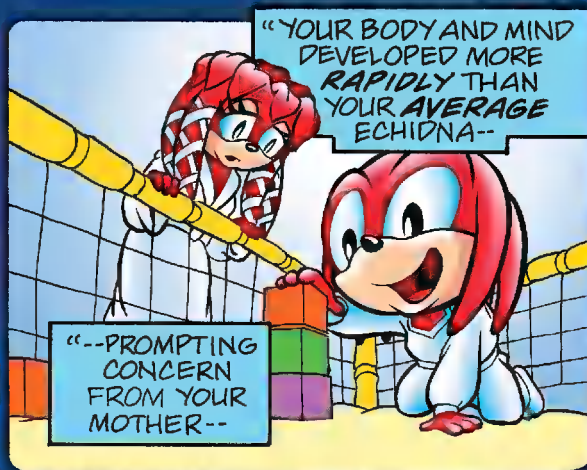
HE SHOWS A LOT OF SPUNK FOR A NEWBORN!

WE SHALL CALL HIM **KNUCKLES**--

--AFTER THE **WARRIOR** TRIBE HIS FAMILY DESCENDED FROM!

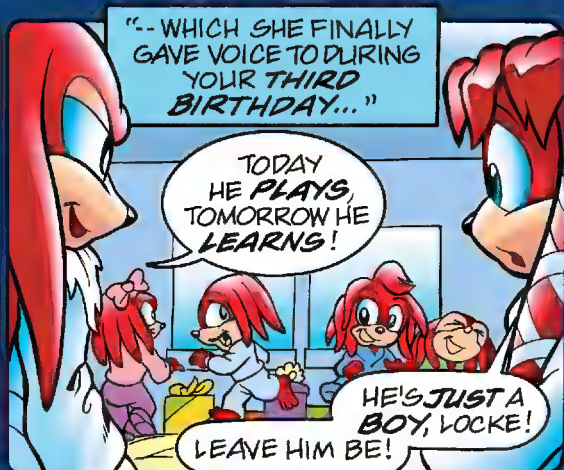






"YOUR BODY AND MIND DEVELOPED MORE RAPIDLY THAN YOUR AVERAGE ECHIDNA--"

"--PROMPTING CONCERN FROM YOUR MOTHER--"

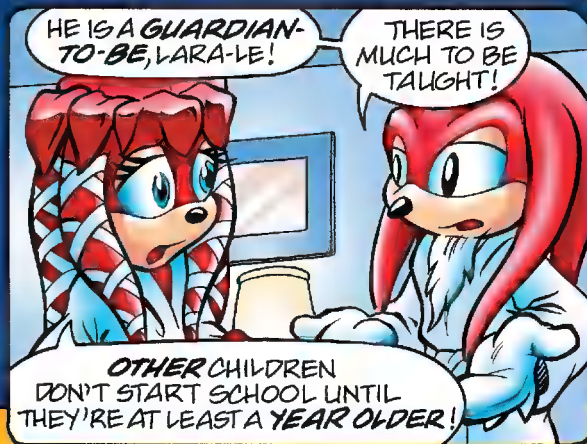


"-- WHICH SHE FINALLY GAVE VOICE TO DURING YOUR THIRD BIRTHDAY..."

TODAY HE **PLAYS**, TOMORROW HE **LEARNS**!

HE'S **JUST A BOY**, LOCKE!

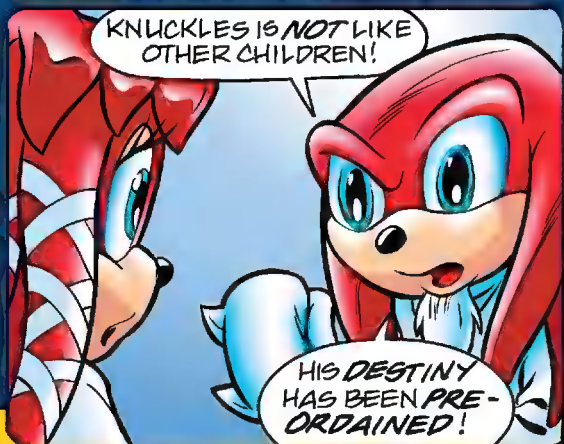
LEAVE HIM BE!



HE IS A **GUARDIAN-TO-BE**, LARA-LE!

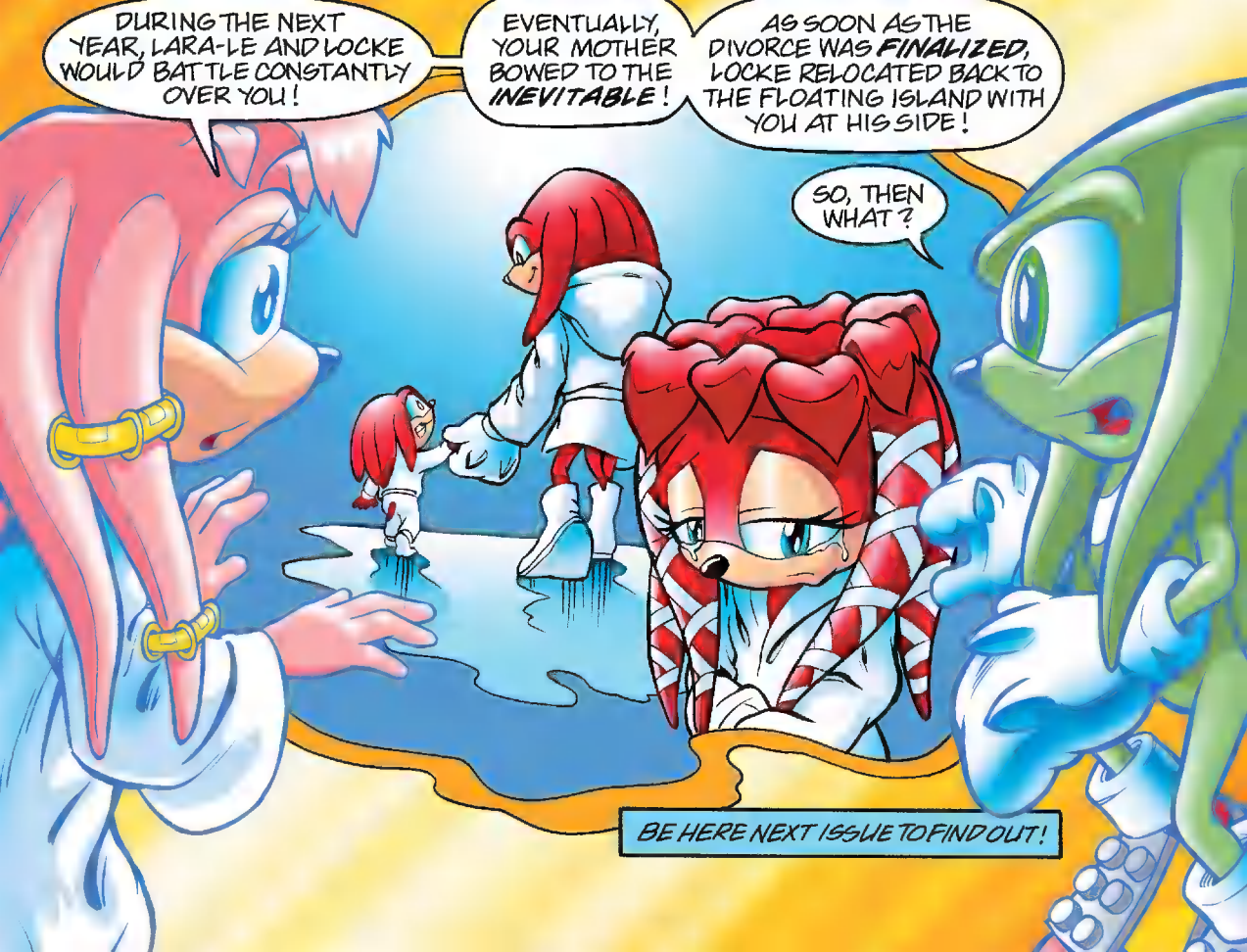
THERE IS MUCH TO BE TAUGHT!

**OTHER CHILDREN** DON'T START SCHOOL UNTIL THEY'RE AT LEAST A **YEAR OLDER**!



KNUCKLES IS **NOT** LIKE OTHER CHILDREN!

HIS **DESTINY** HAS BEEN **PRE-ORDAINED**!



DURING THE NEXT YEAR, LARA-LE AND LOCKE WOULD BATTLE CONSTANTLY OVER YOU!

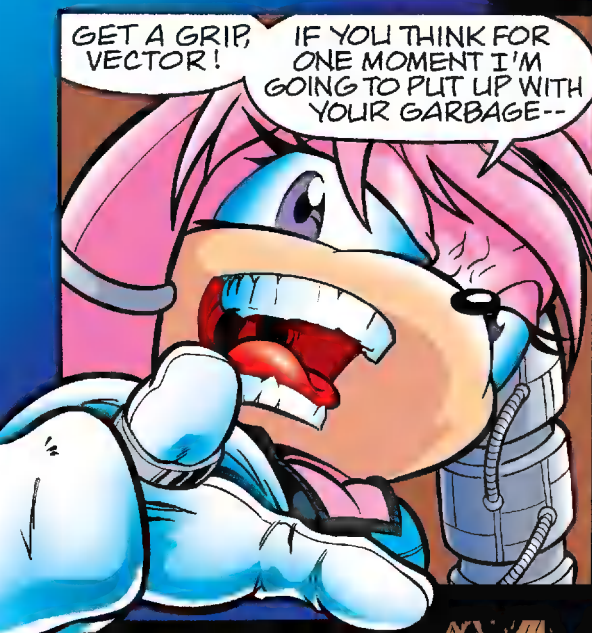
EVENTUALLY, YOUR MOTHER BOWED TO THE **INEVITABLE**!

AS SOON AS THE DIVORCE WAS **FINALIZED**, LOCKE RELOCATED BACK TO THE FLOATING ISLAND WITH YOU AT HIS SIDE!

SO, THEN WHAT?

BE HERE NEXT ISSUE TO FIND OUT!





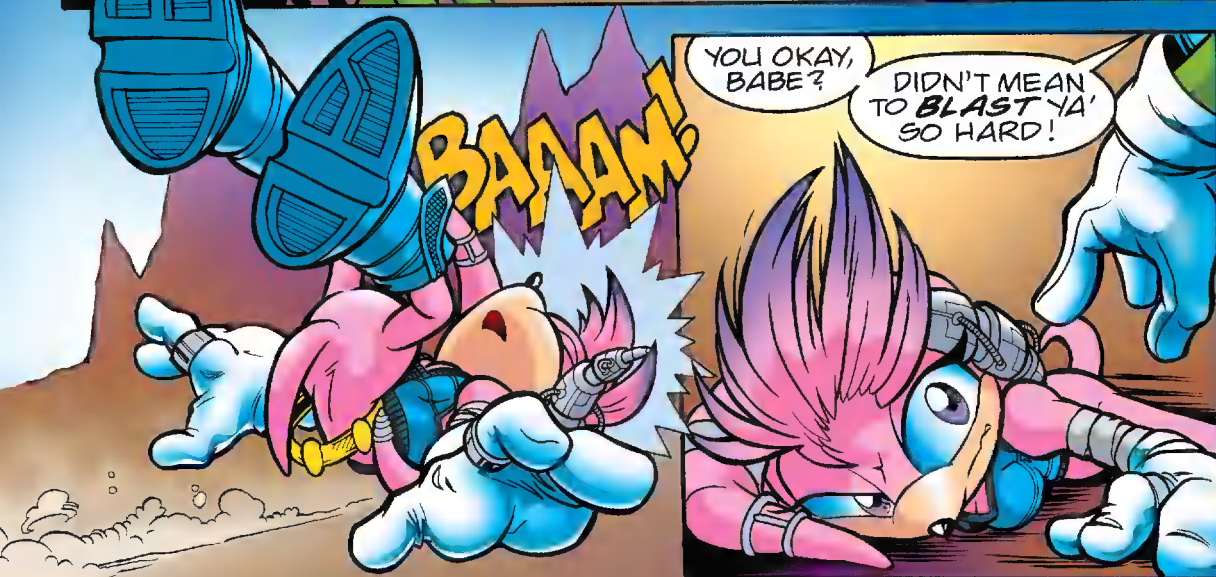
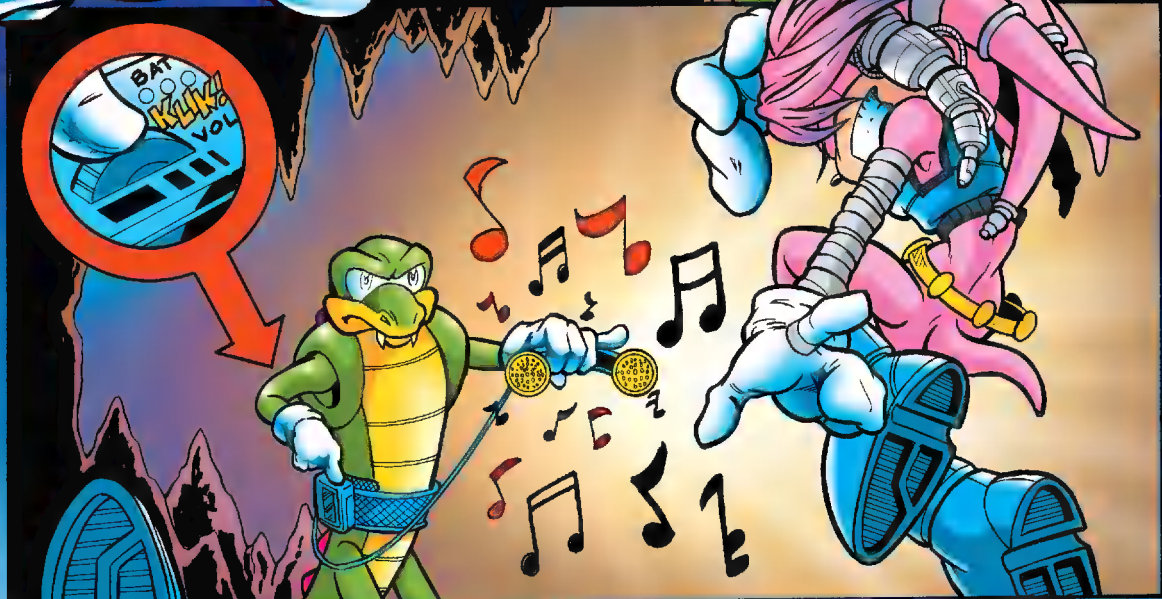
GET A GRIP,  
VECTOR!

IF YOU THINK FOR  
ONE MOMENT I'M  
GOING TO PUT UP WITH  
YOUR GARBAGE--



--YOU'RE  
GOING TO BE  
ONE SORRY  
CROC!

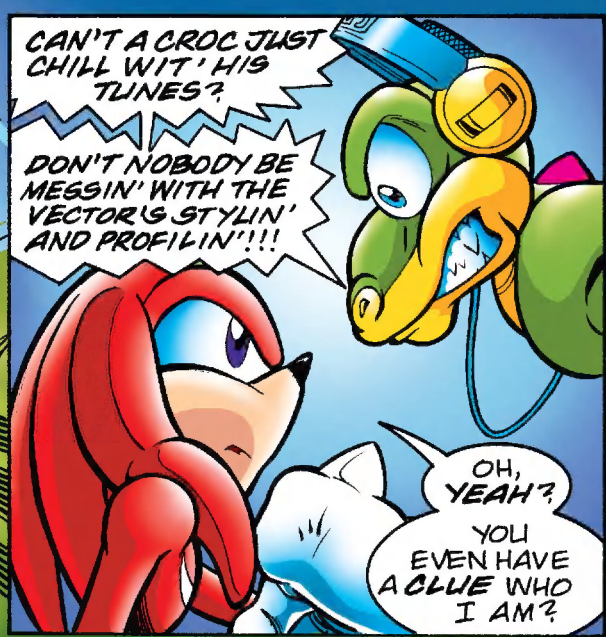
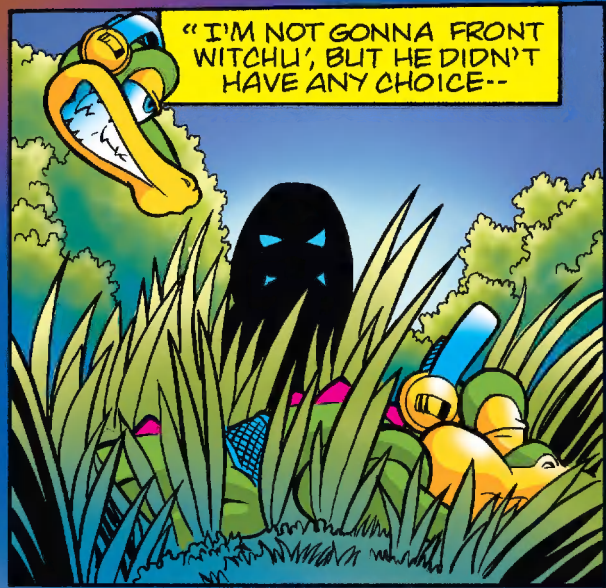
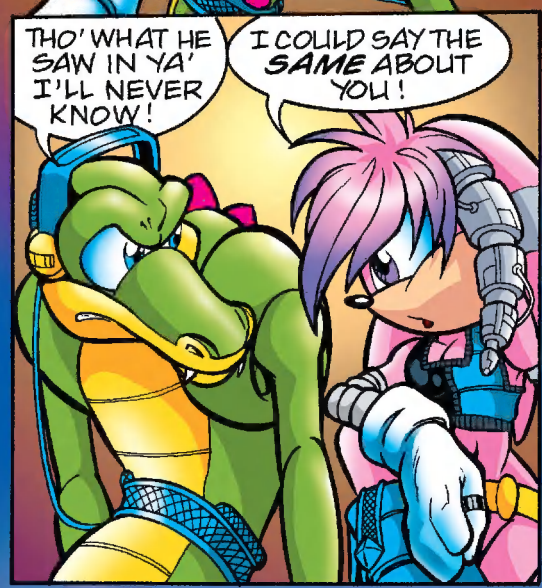
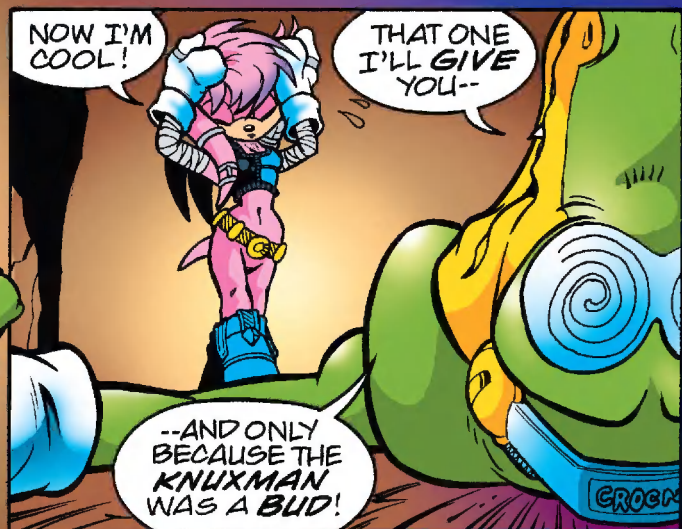
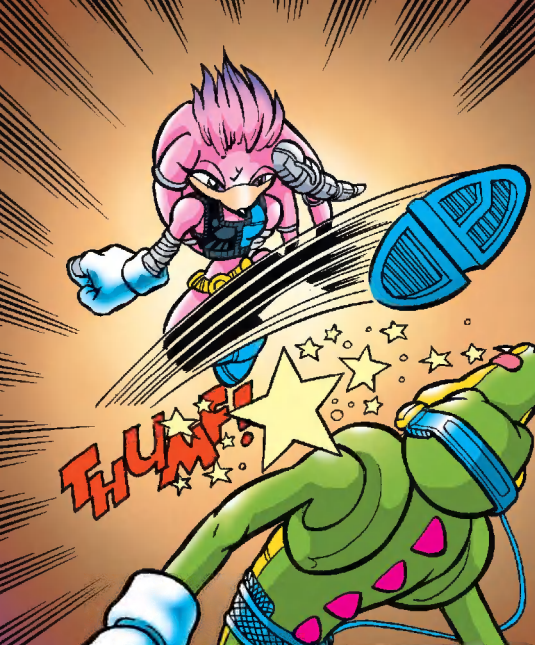
SEZ WHO?  
YOU?



YOU OKAY,  
BABE?

DIDN'T MEAN  
TO **BLAST** YA'  
SO HARD!

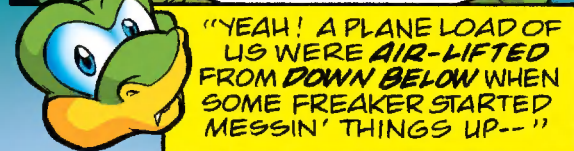
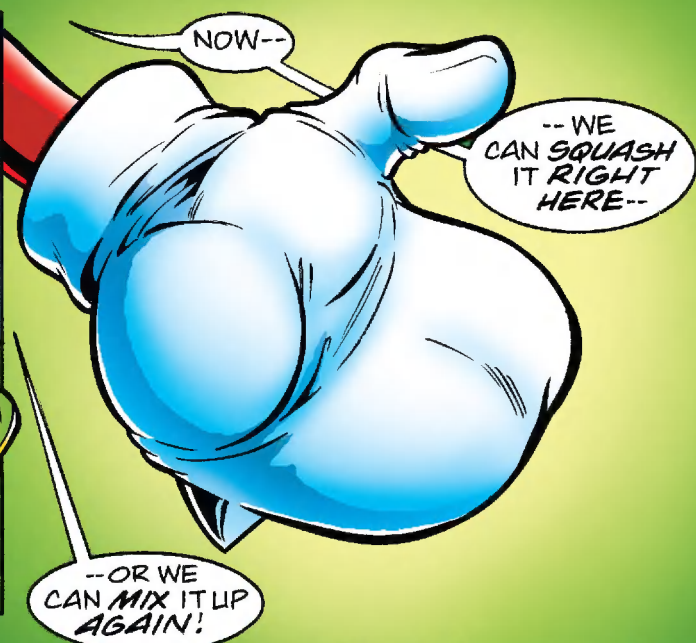




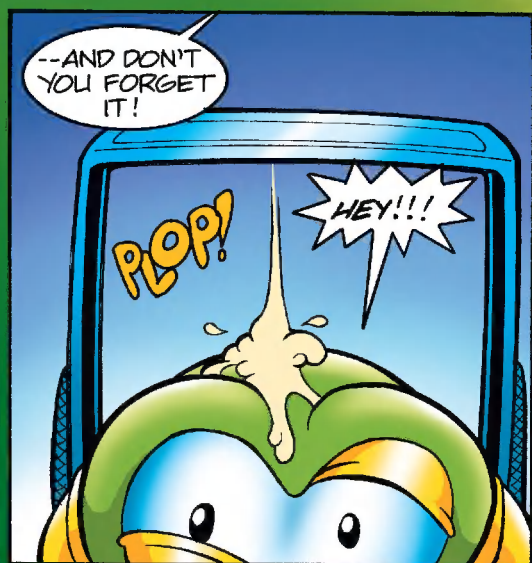












--AND DON'T YOU FORGET IT!

HEY!!!

PLOP!



PLEASD TO MEET YOU, AS WELL!

LIKEWISE!

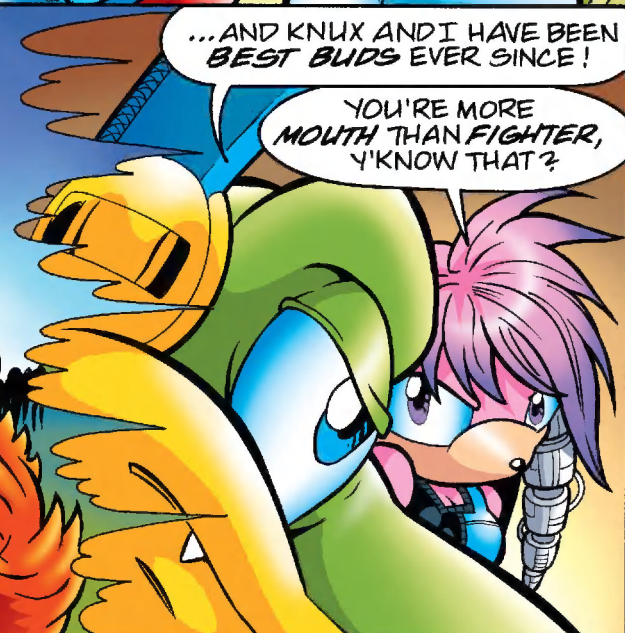


HEY, MAN!

HOW ABOUT A TOWEL?

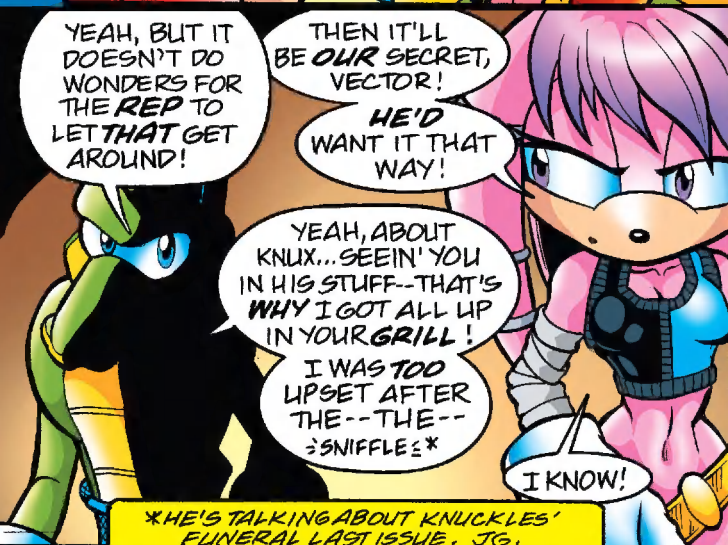
THINK I SHOULD?

THAT'S YOUR CALL!



...AND KNUX AND I HAVE BEEN BEST BUDS EVER SINCE!

YOU'RE MORE MOUTH THAN FIGHTER, Y'KNOW THAT?



YEAH, BUT IT DOESN'T DO WONDERS FOR THE REP TO LET THAT GET AROUND!

THEN IT'LL BE OUR SECRET, VECTOR!

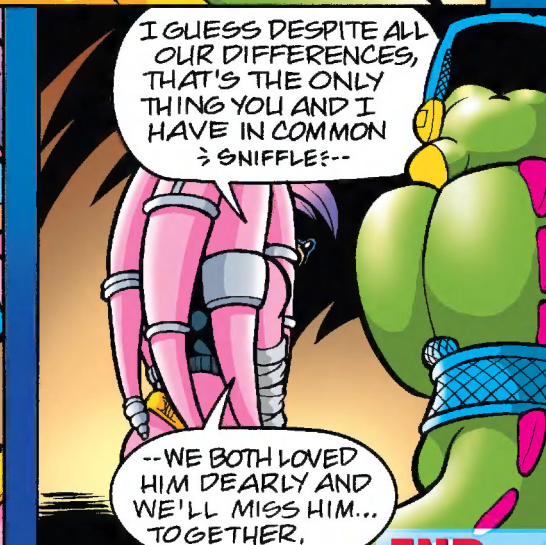
HE'D WANT IT THAT WAY!

YEAH, ABOUT KNUX... SEEIN' YOU IN HIS STUFF-- THAT'S WHY I GOT ALL UP IN YOUR GRILL!

I WAS TOO UPSET AFTER THE-- THE--

~SNIFFLE~\*

I KNOW!



I GUESS DESPITE ALL OUR DIFFERENCES, THAT'S THE ONLY THING YOU AND I HAVE IN COMMON ~SNIFFLE~--

--WE BOTH LOVED HIM DEARLY AND WE'LL MISS HIM... TOGETHER.

\*HE'S TALKING ABOUT KNUCKLES' FUNERAL LAST ISSUE. JG.

END